

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows

1. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a printing system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a device independent set of desired printer options for a specified print source file, wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of a plurality of printers;

comparing the selected printer options to a definition of printer capabilities;

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then converting the device independent printer options to the at least one printer specific command;

sending the at least one printer specific command and the print source file to a selected printer which is responsive to the at least one printer specific command; and

signaling an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of storing a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, with at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats, wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of converting device independent printer options comprises incorporating into a printable format data file the at least one printer specific command.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of signaling an error comprises signaling at least a selected one of (a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type; (b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and (c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus comprising:
a plurality of printers, each having printer capabilities which vary from other printers;
an information handling system communicating with said plurality of printers for selectively transmitting thereto specific print source files, said information handling system having a processor and memory associated with said processor;
program instructions stored in said memory accessible to said processor and effective when executing on said processor to:

allow an operator to select for a specific print source file a device independent set of desired printer options stored in a job ticket associated with the print source file, wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of the plurality of printers;

retain a set of definitions of printer capabilities for each of said plurality of printers;

compare the operator selected printer options with a definition of printer capabilities and then

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then convert the device independent printer options to the at least one printer specific command;

send the at least one printer specific command and the print source file to a selected printer which is responsive to the at least one printer specific command; and

signal an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities.

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to store a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to incorporate into a printable format data file the at least one printer specific command.

10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to signal at least a selected one of (a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type; (b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and (c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program product comprising:

~~a computer readable medium; and~~
program instructions stored on said computer-readable medium accessible to a processor and effective when executing on said processor to:

allow an operator to select for a specific print source file a device independent set of desired printer options stored in a job ticket associated with the print source file, wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of a plurality of printers;

retain a set of definitions of printer capabilities for each of a plurality of printers;

compare the operator selected printer options with a definition of printer capabilities and then

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then convert the device independent printer options to the at least one printer specific command;

send the at least one printer specific command and the print source file to a selected printer which is responsive to the at least one printer specific command; and

signal an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~product~~ according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on the processor are further effective to store a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~product~~ according to claim 12 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~product~~ according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to incorporate into a printable format data file the at least one printer specific command.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~product~~ according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to signal at least a selected one of (a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type; (b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and (c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting the device independent printer options further comprises receiving operator input to select a specified printer of the plurality of printers.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the step of comparing the selected printer options further comprises comparing the definition of printer capabilities for the specified printer with the set of device independent printer options.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to allow the operator to select a specified printer of the plurality of printers for the specific print source file.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to compare the definition of printer capabilities for the specified printer with the set of device independent printer options to determine if the device independent set of desired printer options is within the defined capabilities of the specified printer.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~product~~ according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to allow the operator to select a specified printer of the plurality of printers for the specific print source file.